

“... dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois.”



Snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in Piatt County. Are those pollinator wing tips and legs tucked away in the first blossom?
Lodge County Park, Monticello in Piatt County. March 17, 2022. Photo: Teresa DeWitt.

Another year is upon us and it looks like one in which we can meet in person again! The next Annual Gathering will be hosted by the Grand Prairie Chapter and is scheduled for June 24-26 in Bloomington/Normal. You can read the announcement on page 5. These are great events to get to know the local flora better, see different natural community types, and learn from the experts. We hope to see you there and hope you enjoy this first issue of 2022.

✂ Chris Benda, Editor

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Message from the President



Dear INPS Members,

Have you noticed our new INPS logo? A big thank you goes to board member Gretel Kiefer for designing it based on the new mascot plant, shooting star (*Primula meadia*, formerly *Dodecatheon meadia*). Shooting star can be found throughout Illinois, which makes it an ideal mascot for our society.

I want to welcome Lailah Reich, Daniel Pohl, and Eric Ulaszek to our state governing board. You can learn more about them from [their bios](#) on our website. Speaking of the website, we are looking for a new webmaster. Jeff Nelson, who has been our webmaster since 2017, is stepping down because he has been elected as President of the Kentucky Native Plant Society. Congratulations to Jeff and thank you for your service. Jeff has agreed to train the next webmaster, so please email us at illinoisplants@gmail.com if you are interested. Experience with WordPress and/or Gravity Forms would be ideal, but not necessary, for being webmaster.

The Grand Prairie Chapter is busy planning our Annual Gathering to be held in the Bloomington area June 24-26. Are you planning to come? Let us know [on our website](#) so that we have an idea of how many hotel rooms and meals to plan for. Note that this is not a registration form (yet), but will help with planning.

Finally, INPS is still concerned about Bell Bowl Prairie in Rockford. You can get in touch with lawmakers and find out more at <https://www.savebellbowlprairie.org/>.

Sincerely,

Emily Dangremond
President INPS

INPS Chapters

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Welcome New Members

Central Chapter

Jenny Bilyard
Maria Britton-Sipe
Daniel Dolder
Aaron Enteman
Steve Gage
Kate Hawkes
Allison Jenks
Karen Kirk
Diana Pratt
Sharon Reynolds
Barbara Rogers

Kankakee Torrent Chapter

Susan Larsen
Fred Morse
Molly Ulrich

Northeast Chapter

Cindy Baker
Cordelia Chadwick
Jo Chenell
Evan & Paula Craig
Arlene Doran
Robin Evans
Pat Hayes
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Kristina Malicoat
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Michael Ostrowski
Barbara Raue
David Shepard
Allison Svoboda
Tara Tidwell-Cullen
Karen Webster

Forest Glen Chapter

Georgia Caraway
Matthew Finzel
Beck Masi
Melissa Records
Laura Stasavich

Quad Cities Chapter

Becki Wells


Southern Chapter

Todd Dietterle
Laurie Ellis
Laurie Henderson
Jon Jackson
Daniel Jansen
Linda Logsdon
Milly Pate
Timothy Vanseghi
Elizabeth Wahle

INPS News

Welcome New Board Members

Welcome to the INPS Governing Board!

		
<p>Secretary: Lailah Reich Lailah has been a member of INPS for 10+ years. She is an ecologist who is personally and professionally passionate about the preservation and protection of rare, endemic plant species in Illinois and has dedicated much of her life to gaining knowledge to aid in this pursuit.</p>	<p>At Large: Eric Ulaszek Eric Ulaszek has been a member of INPS since its inception. Eric is currently a Botanist/Associate Scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, conducting surveys for rare plants and assessing natural community remnants.</p>	<p>At Large: Daniel Pohl Daniel has been a member of INPS for the past 2 years. Currently in Rockford working in ecological restoration with Applied Ecological Services (now RES).</p>

Further biographic information about these three new members as well as all of your INPS Government Board members is available on the [INPS website](#).

Many Thanks for Generous Donations to Research and Survey Grants and for the General Fund.

INPS is grateful for generous donations given in 2021 for Research and Survey Grants and for the General Fund. These contributions help us expand our grant programs and our overall mission to study, appreciate, and conserve the native flora and natural communities of Illinois. Starred names indicate donations of \$100 or more.

Brenda Allan	Allie Goudy	Lailah Reich
Roger Anderson	Melissa Grycan	Sarah Richardson
Rebecca Anderson	Brian Hale	Roy & Paula Robinson
William Bromer	Michael Hallisy	Barbara Rose
Julia Bunn	Sherrie Hood*	Ned Siegel
Mary Carlson	Jacques Hooymans	Clint Stevens
Randall Carriger	Barry Howard*	Eileen Sutter*
Laura Christensen	Ann Klose & Rob Titone	Rafael Urbina Casanova
Peggy Coon	Mark Kluge	Jan VonQualen & Ted Schullian
Janice Coons	Linda MacKechnie	Kay Cooper Watt
Nancy Coutant	Susanne Masi & Domenico	Denise Wessman
Carl & Pen DauBach*	D'Alessandro	Douglas White
Mary Dresser	Karen Matz*	Beth Young
Winona Dulka*	Lavonne & Stan Morris	Mary Zaander
Grant Fessler	Linda Negele	
Steve Fluett	Mary Peranteau	
Beverly & Dan Foote*	Izabella Redlinski	

INPS is also grateful to Supporting (S), Patron (P), and new Life Members (L) who contribute funds beyond basic membership that further support our mission.

Joseph & Nancy Armstrong* (P)	Thomas Goodin* (P)	Roger Ross (S)
William Clark Ashby* (P)	Sue Gorr (S)	Robert & Rhonda Rothrock* (P)
Candace Blank (S)	Stephen Gustafson (S)	Jim Seiler (S)
Anna Braum (S)	Brian Hale (S)	Ned Siegel (S)
Beth Brennan & Vito Mastrangelo (S)	Amy Hamilton (S)	Valerie Sivicek (S)
Julia Bunn (S)	Cynthia Harn (S)	Sherrie & Bill Snyder* (P)
Diane Byers and Charles Bristow (S)	Laura Hartwell-Berlin* (P)	Janice Sommer* (P)
Carbondale Garden Study Club (S)	Marie Havens (S)	Rick & Marlene Steger (S)
Debra Carey* (P)	Matt Hokanson (S)	Eileen Sutter (L)
Randall Carriger (S)	Jack Hudnall (S)	Robert Szafoni (S)
Kelly Cartwright* (P)	Eric Janssen (L)	Karen Taira (S)
Laura Christensen* (P)	Sarah Kimber (S)	Phoebe Thatcher (S)
Jeffrey Conte* (P)	Mark Kluge (S)	Kathleen Thomas/Friends of Hindsdale Prairie* (P)
Sue Cozzens* (P)	Don Krefft (S)	Theresa Treacy* (P)
Allison Daley (S)	Kate Kruesi (S)	John Valek* (P)
Carl & Pen DauBach (S)	Brian Loges (S)	Kevin Veara & Amy Denny* (P)
Sally de Becker (S)	Julie Long* (P)	Mark Vukovich (S)
Linda Driggers (S)	Keri Luly (S)	Ginnie Watson (S)
Carol Dunaway (S)	Linda MacKechnie (S)	Jeff Weiss (S)
Erin Faulkner (L)	Beth Malmquist (S)	Lyle White (S)
Ingrid Felsl (S)	Sue & Kent Massie (S)	Neil Whitman (S)
Mike & Joann Fricke* (P)	Andy Neill* (P)	Paula Woods (S)
Don Gardner (S)	Don & Espie Nelson (S)	
	Dennis Nyberg, Ph.D. (S)	
	Randy Nyboer* (P)	
	John & Andrea Rendleman* (P)	
	Susan Rick (S)	

INPS Annual Gathering 2022 - June 24-26 - SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Inn Motel and Conference Center, 8 Trader's Circle, Normal, IL 61761. (309) 862-0101. This location is just north of the city very close to the junction of I-39 and I-55.

- The 2022 Annual Gathering will start on Friday night with appetizers and a cash bar. There will be speakers to educate and amuse you, as well as a silent auction, so bring treasures to donate that will shake loose the money!
- Saturday offers three field trips. Bag lunches will be provided plus a buffet at the end of the day. After the field trips, grant recipients will give brief reports about their research projects, and the silent auction winners will be announced.
- Sunday will feature local botanical attractions: ISU's Fell Arboretum and Horticultural Center and a local plant collector's garden. Details to come!
- You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements; discounted rooms are available at the Holiday Inn.
- Monitor [this INPS webpage](#) to indicate interest and for future updates.

***Erigenia* Update**

Volume 28 is coming soon (Spring 2022)! However, articles are [available online now](#). These preprint contributions have undergone peer review and copy editing but no final layout, and page numbering will differ from the print copy. Once final print versions are available, the preprints will be replaced by PDFs of the final version as it will appear in the printed volume (this already may have occurred for *Erigenia* Number 28). We plan to follow this strategy with future issues so that authors can make their contributions more immediately available and curious readers won't have to wait for the sometimes extended intervals between volumes of *Erigenia*.

New INPS Brochure

Thanks to Tracy DeMarco, the long-outdated INPS tri-fold brochure has been updated and redesigned! It is available for download on the [INPS website](#).

Native Plant Sales Are Back!

Mark your calendars now – check out upcoming native plant sales listed on the [INPS website](#).

Also, the Prairie State Nursery has updated [their website](#) and is now allowing customers to order Illinois ecotype seed online! To celebrate, they are offering INPS members 25% off of online native seed orders through the end of May. At checkout, use the Promo Code "INPS-S-22" to apply the discount.

Chapter News

Central Chapter: In January, the Central Chapter Board, Plant Sale Committee, and Program/Field Trip Committee each met to begin fleshing out the schedule for a great 2022. In February we heard from Susan Helm about her efforts to establish native plantings in downtown Springfield. In March, we heard from Holly Frainer, native plant horticulturalist with Pollinator Partnership. Holly shared information about her efforts propagating plants and processing seed at Mason State Tree Nursery. Efforts are beginning to gear up in preparation for our Native Plant Sale on May 14, 2022.

Forest Glen Chapter: Stay tuned for upcoming events.

Grand Prairie Chapter: SAVE THE DATE! We are the hosts for the INPS Annual Gathering June 24-26, 2022 to be held at the Holiday Inn Motel and Conference Center in Normal, IL.

Kankakee Torrent Chapter: The Kankakee Torrent Chapter held their 2022 Community Habitat Symposium on February 26, 2022. The third biennial Symposium put on by the KT Chapter went smoothly, thanks to the cooperation of Covid which died down just before the Symposium. We had eight talks, seven of which are [posted online](#) with the permission of the presenters. These can now be seen by going to the INPS [Kankakee Torrent Chapter webpage](#) and clicking on the link to the presentations.

Talks ranged widely from geology to nature journaling, to rare plant monitoring and assessing Illinois rare plant species, and even the mammals of Illinois. So many things affect the ecosystems that our native plants live in and how we interact with them. Feel free to view the recordings of the presentations and use them at your local chapter meetings or other events. They are there for your enjoyment and edification.

Northeast Chapter: The Northeast Chapter has several events coming up this spring, including hikes at Captain Daniel Wright Woods (Lake County), Sagawau (Cook County), and Flora Prairie/Beach Cemetery Prairie (Boone/Ogle Counties). Register on our chapter [Events webpage](#) on the INPS website.

Quad Cities Chapter: The Quad Cities Chapter has several events coming up this spring:

- **March 30 meeting:** Round Table conversation featuring Marilyn Andress at 6PM in Hanson Hall on the Augustana College Campus. Marilyn will lead a discussion about how she developed a conservation ethos while still in a law enforcement career. A major influence in her awakening was the Aldo Leopold classic *A Sand County Almanac*. She applied his wisdom in restoring her family's 134-year-old farmstead. Marilyn is the 2022 [Oberholtzer Award](#) honoree.
- **April 30 outing:** "Stroll Through Spring" at Black Hawk State Historic Site in Rock Island, IL. Bird walk 7-9AM. Program and refreshments 9-10AM. Wildflower walk 10AM-noon. Local experts lead bird and plant walks.
- **June 24-25 field trips:** "BioBlitz" scheduled for Sunderbruch Park in Davenport, IA. For 24 hours local experts and area volunteers try to identify as many species of plants and animals as possible for a comprehensive list of the biota of the area. This BioBlitz is a continuation of a half decade effort to better document the living things of the Quad Cities area.

Southern Chapter: Our annual Indigenous Plants Symposium is planned for May 13th through the 14th. Keynote speaker Christy Edwards will present on rarity and genetics in restoration efforts. There will be a zoom option for those who are unable to attend in person. The presentation in person will be in the LSIII auditorium at SIU on the 13th at 6pm. Two hikes will be offered on Saturday the 14th from 9-12 noon, one at the Round Bluff Trail at Ferne Clyffe State Park and the other at Trillium Trail at Giant City State Park.

The Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plants Society is putting out a call for posters for its annual Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium. Submissions are open to students and community members conducting research on Southern Illinois plants and ecosystems and the surrounding natural areas. To submit a poster email kate.tillotson@siu.edu by 4/17/2022.

Please visit the Southern Chapter [YouTube channel](#) for videos from past events.

In Praise of Our Donors

Each year, the Illinois Native Plant Society likes to recognize those donors who showed extra support of the Society by contributing above and beyond the membership dues level in the past year. Here are short stories about some of our most generous donors in 2021 and new Life Members.

An anonymous member couple who donated \$400 (divided between the Research and Survey Grants) shared this inspiring insight about their gift: *"Our reasoning for the donation is clear cut and attributable: we believe [that] to insure preservation and protection of our precious natural world we must help groom and grow younger generations of biophiles and conservationists, and research incentives help to do this."*

Anonymous Donor: This donor from the Quad Cities Chapter and an INPS member for many years generously donated \$5,000 in 2021 to the Research Grant fund. She has loyally held INPS membership, whether from Minnesota or Iowa. A graduate of the first Illinois Master Naturalist class with its creator, Liz Haynes, our donor's life is marked by a love of plants and enthusiasm for the outdoors—hiking in the Boundary Waters, watching the change of seasons in Black Hawk State Park, exploring bogs—currently a favorite ecosystem.

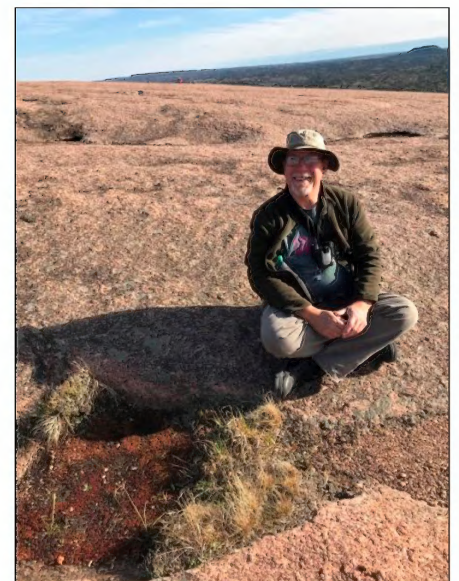
Physical changes have shifted the interests of our donor to house plants and avidly following scientific and environmental issues. *"Nature is ubiquitous. There's always something else to side-step toward."* She is proud to have shared her interests in nature with her son, a limnologist at Ohio State University, and daughter, who works with climate change and public health in Boulder, Colorado. Our donor understands personally how important grant support can be for developing young scientists. She wants to *"do whatever will support more donations and create more grants....it gets younger people involved."* This kind of support has been true for both of her children.

Eric Ulaszek: Eric is a founding member of the Illinois Native Plant Society and long-time Life Member. In 2021, Eric generously donated to INPS. He has been active in many chapters throughout the state, starting in his graduate school days with Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale and continuing through his professional career working for the U.S. Forest Service Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in northeast Illinois, and now with the Illinois Natural History Survey in east-central Illinois.

Eric is one of the very best botanists in the state of Illinois with a broad range of experience spanning plant taxonomy, plant ecology, and horticulture. Eric has been a consistent mentor and resource for plant-curious Illinoisans.



At Burntside Lake.



Eric Ulaszek at Enchanted Rocks SNA
Texas.

In 2021 three members upgraded to join the ranks of Life Members with their \$500 donations.

Erin Faulkner: This past year Chicago Public High School biology teacher Erin Faulkner opted to join INPS at the Life Member level. Erin has been a member of the Northeast Chapter of INPS since 2014. When asked why she decided to make this valuable investment in our work, Erin said, *“For me, native plants have value because they are the basis of a healthy ecosystem. Lose the plants, and everything else follows. It’s easy for most people*



Erin Faulkner at a North Branch workday.

to be captivated by charismatic animals—I sternly lecture my students when they go on about “saving animals” in their essay responses, instead of being inclusive of all species—but I have a soft spot for the most overlooked, non-flashy, and unassuming members of native communities. I appreciate that INPS does good work in bringing them into the spotlight.”

Erin believes in the value of connecting youth to nature, and making a difference at the same time. At a pre-COVID winter workday at McLaughrey Springs she had all the bases covered for her students, bringing a huge tub of hats, hoodies, and sweat pants for them to put on over their nylon outerwear, because she knew how much they like to burn stuff up—and didn’t want their jackets to burn up too. And she fed them AND kept them on task. Erin is also a master sawyer. Her students adore her.

In 2018, [Erin won the “Illinois Botanists’ Big Year,”](#) a friendly INPS competition to see who can document the most plant species in a single year in Illinois.

Eric Janssen: This past year, Illinois Natural History Survey botanist and INPS Forest Glen Chapter at-large board member Eric Janssen joined INPS as a Life Member. Eric is a native Illinoisan and was exposed to botany and biology from a very young age. His first research experience came as a small child alongside his botanist mother, Dr. Janice Coons, a retired botany professor from Eastern Illinois University. He visited prairies and rare plant sites while Janice conducted research with her students. At first Eric resisted but later, when exposed to his first native plant identification course in college, he couldn’t fight the draw toward botany and plant ecology. He is especially drawn toward our unique Illinois flora and is especially fond of *Primula frenchii* (French’s shooting star) and all the many native *Asclepias* (milkweeds). Currently, Eric is a Plant Ecologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and is finishing his MS thesis at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

When asked ‘What does INPS mean to you?,’ Eric responded *“It’s a great place to meet people who have the same passion for our plants as I do.”*



Eric Janssen with crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*).

Eileen Sutter: Eileen is a lifelong plant lover. As a child, she had a vegetable garden in her family's suburban yard ringed with conifers, outside of Boston, and loved watching beans sprout from seeds she had planted. Later in St. Louis, she encountered a whole different set of plants, with a yard set in a remnant white oak ecosystem, including a ground layer of spring ephemerals like trillium, toothwort, spring beauty, and wild geranium. Landing in Chicago after college graduation, Eileen soon found her niche volunteering with plants, first with the Chicago Botanic Garden (Plants of Concern), and then with the North Branch Restoration Project. Still fascinated with seeds, Eileen now spends time collecting native plant seeds from Cook County Forest Preserve sites along the North Branch of the Chicago River. In her own words:

“Eventually I also found my way to the Illinois Native Plant Society, which fosters knowledge and love of what Ray Schulenberg and many others think of as ‘America’—our rich and diverse heritage of native plants and animals. I am proud to be a life member of this group that has done so much to enhance my knowledge of botany, and to support the preservation of our precious remaining natural areas. I like to contribute to the INPS Research Grant Program, which I think of as another kind of seed. The fruit of the Program is development of younger botanists in their work, as well as greater understanding of our native ecosystems. Long may those seeds thrive!”



Eileen Sutter spreading seed at Watersmeet FP, her stewardship site.

Control of *Solidago altissima* in open oak woodlands – Study Update

By Karen Glennemeier, 2021 INPS Research Grant Program Recipient

Last year, we described some early results of a study testing the effectiveness of scything and interseeding at controlling tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*). After an additional year of monitoring, we've learned a few new things.

First, a quick re-cap of the study. Within dense *S. altissima* stands, we applied one of the following treatments: Seeding, scything, both seeding and scything, or no treatment. For the seeding treatment, we sowed a mix of 69 native woodland species in September and December, 2020. For the scything treatment, all stems of *S. altissima* within the treatment plots were cut in June and again in September, 2020 at ground level. For the seeding and scything combined treatment, these methods were both applied within the treatment plot as described above. Control plots were neither seeded nor scythed.

We monitored the plots in June, 2020, before the initial scything treatment, and again in September, 2020 and September, 2021. No scything or seeding treatments were applied in 2021, so our results represent the impacts of a single season of management.

Here's what we've learned so far:

- A full year after we last cut *S.altissima* to the ground, it remained suppressed, as evidenced in this photo, where the edges of our scythed circle remain clearly visible. Our quadrats showed significantly lower *S.altissima* abundance in scythed plots compared to controls. This may represent a window of opportunity for seeding desirable species into managed areas.
- Scything, but not (yet) seeding, resulted in a significant increase in native species number (and, correspondingly, in FQI). This result suggests that scything reduced competition by *S. altissima* and thus allowed pre-existing species to expand and find their way into our sample quadrats. We expect the seeding treatment to show positive effects on species richness and floristic quality in future years, as seeds sown in 2020 become established over time. The 2020 drought may have negatively impacted seed germination, but in any case we would not expect to see the full response to seeding within this first growing season after sowing.
- We found a nearly-significant trend toward greater abundance of conservative species (C-value = 7-10) within seeded plots. It's possible that more conservative species are better able to compete with established plant communities and that interseeding with conservative species has potential as a management tool within areas of abundant *S. altissima*. Such a strategy might be effective only within relatively high quality woodlands such as our study area, where an established vegetation matrix may facilitate establishment of conservative species.



We are eager to continue monitoring these plots over the next several years, to determine how long our observed effects last and whether any effects become stronger as more seeds have time to germinate and spread.

Funding for this study was provided by the Illinois Native Plant Society Research Grant Program and the Dr. Scholls Foundation. Many thanks to Sai Ramakrishna, Katie Kucera, Emma Leavens, and Paul Swanson for their help applying treatments and conducting monitoring, and to the many volunteer site stewards who helped locate appropriate habitat, collect seeds, and otherwise supported this work. This research was conducted under an Ecological Research Permit from the Forest Preserves of Cook County.

Illinois Botanists' Big Year 2021 Results

Mission: Find the most plant species in Illinois in 2021 and rejoice in your victory!

And the winner is...

Abel Kinser ([@abelkinser](#)) with 853 species!

As of January 16, 2022, Abel had 1,581 Research Grade observations of 853 plant species in Illinois for 2021. Congrats!

2021 [Illinois Plant Stats](#)

- 6,741 observers
- 86,910 Research Grade observations of plants – 41% by people who had joined this project
- 2,089 species
- 2,010 identifiers

The [Illinois Botanists Big Year](#) is an annual friendly competition of the [Illinois Native Plant Society](#) to see how many species one can find in a single year in Illinois. The main goals of the project are to spark discovery in people of any age and experience, encouraging them to stop to look at plants they might otherwise have passed by, as well as to create connections and build camaraderie among plant enthusiasts, share knowledge, and contribute to a growing database of the flora of Illinois. The year 2021 was its fifth year: 132 people joined the project.

The Illinois Botanists Big Year only looks at Research Grade observations (those that have identifications that have been confirmed by at least one other person), a rough tool to ensure a level of data quality. For 2021, only 48% of the qualifying observations of plants have reached Research Grade in Illinois so far.

Big thanks to the hundreds of people from around the world who dedicate so much effort to helping sort and identify Illinois plant observations, particularly [@abelkinser](#) this year, who has made almost twice as many IDs as anyone else, and the folks who made a huge push within the past couple weeks [@j_p3](#), [@tkoffel](#), [@maryah](#), [@nellse](#), [@brothernorbert](#), [@t_e_d](#), [@cwarneke](#), and others! Without the dedicated work of so many identifiers iNaturalist would not function.

Most Species

1. [@abelkinser](#) – 853
2. [@mmasell](#) – 808
3. [@elfaulkner](#) – 785
4. [@adriansydor](#) – 723
5. [@dennis_nyberg](#) – 705
6. [@brdnrd](#) – 630
7. [@sedge](#) – 629
8. [@danielpohl](#) – 625
9. [@sanguinaria33](#) – 602
10. [@wildlandblogger](#) – 586

Most Observations

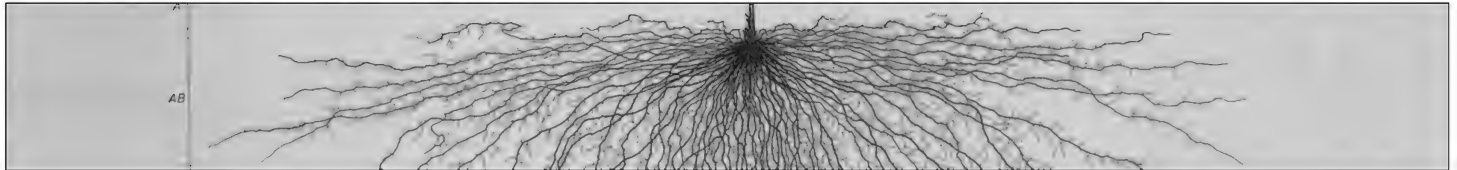
1. [@brdnrd](#) – 2,914
2. [@johnhboldt](#) – 1,998
3. [@abelkinser](#) – 1,581
4. [@danielpohl](#) – 1,486
5. [@mmasell](#) – 1,416
6. [@wildlandblogger](#) – 1,312
7. [@sedge](#) – 1,286
8. [@elfaulkner](#) – 1,211
9. [@dennis_nyberg](#) – 1,132
10. [@grantfessler](#) – 1,110

Check out lots of other stats and fun graphics for 2021 and previous years on the [Illinois Botanists Big Year webpage](#)!

Other News, Web Links, & Publications

Dig Into an Enormous Archive of Drawings of the Complex Root Systems of 1,180 Plants

A collaborative project of the late botanists Erwin Lichtenegger and Lore Kutschera celebrates the power and beauty of hidden plant root systems through detailed drawings of agricultural crops, shrubs, trees, and weeds. Digitized by Wageningen University & Research (WUR), [the extensive archive](#) is the culmination of 40 years of research in Austria that involved cultivating and carefully retrieving developed plant life from the soil for study. It now boasts more than 1,000 renderings of the winding, spindly roots, some of which branch multiple feet wide.



North American Prairie Conference 2022 – July 23-27

This year's event will be a scaled-down, more focused version. It will also be broken into three parts, including a city-wide celebration of prairie, a two-day workshop, and a day of prairie field trips. People are invited to take part in any or all of those. Read more about this event [here](#).

Roadsides As Vital Habitat: an Old Idea Is Getting Its Due

In recent years, roadsides and utility rights-of-way in Kentucky have been increasingly recognized by ecologists and land managers for their potential conservation value. Roadsides can also contain remnants of native grassland communities, an increasingly rare plant community type in Kentucky and the southeastern United States. In addition to federal initiatives, the Office of Kentucky Nature Preserves (OKNP) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) have partnered on a 5-year project to survey all of the state maintained roads for high-quality pollinator and grassland habitat. KYTC maintains approximately 31,000 miles of roadside right-of-way which includes the interstates, US highways, and all state highways. Read more about the surveys that began in 2020 and the results so far on the [Kentucky Native Plant Society website](#).

Growing Season Burns for Sericea

Soil disturbance from maintenance along a natural gas pipeline gave sericea (*Lespedeza cuneata*) an opportunity to establish and proliferate throughout a recreated prairie at Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary in Hillsboro, IL. Illinois Audubon Society volunteers and contractors have been spot-spraying the sericea, but it is very labor intensive to find all the plants, especially through multiple years of unburned growth. In 2020, we decided to try a growing season burn to: (1) top-kill sericea, preventing new sericea seed that year, (2) encourage the sericea seedbank to germinate, hopefully reducing the number of years herbicide treatment will be required, and (3) remove old prairie plant material, making the sericea easier to find. Read more about this project in [an article by Kaleb Baker](#) on the *Blog of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council*.

Propagating Swamp Betony

In a project to test the propagation of hemi-parasitic native plant species, a good introductory candidate was selected—swamp betony (*Pedicularis lanceolata*). Swamp betony is found in a variety of wetlands that include sedge meadows, fens, wet prairies, and marshes. Like other *Pedicularis* species, it is a generalist when it comes to hosts, but generally gravitates towards using graminoids and composites. By propagating plants within a nursery setting, could swamp betony be successfully reintroduced into the wild with plugs? Read more in this [blog post by Luke Dahlberg](#), Citizens for Conservation, on the Grassland Restoration Network website.

The Mighty Middle: the Essential and Difficult Intermediate

Prairie-like open savanna areas are the pride of Somme Prairie Grove. Starting in 1980 as mostly alien old field vegetation, restoration efforts have now produced what seem like high-quality, rare restored nature. Parts of Somme's bur oak woodland areas also thrive with year-by-year increasing quality. But as we walk from the grassy, bright open toward the woody shade, we must pass through dismal failure. Between the brightest and shadiest areas, there is little diversity or quality. For a variety of reasons, many of these areas have reverted to brush. Read about this challenge and new restoration approaches in [a blog post by Stephen Packard](#) on the *Strategies for Stewards: from woods to prairies* website.

Botanical Names Demystified

The Morton Arboretum is offering this online, self-paced class for those interested in learning about the scientific naming of plants and why this system is useful and important. The instructor, Chris Benda, botanist and past president of INPS, also shares tips and tricks for pronunciation and teaches botanical names for 40 common plant species that are native to the Great Lakes Region. The course costs \$20 and the self-paced materials will take about 2 to 2½ hours to complete.

[Register at The Morton Arboretum.](#)

Orchid-gami: Welcome to the Fold

The North American Orchid Conservation Center (NAOCC) and the United States Botanic Garden have developed the orchid-gami project as a fun activity to raise awareness about the conservation and ecology of our native orchids. Designed for NAOCC by Maarten Janssens, *orchid-gami* are 3D models of orchids that you can print, cut, and fold. [Try it!](#) Maybe start with the Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*), one-star difficulty, and work your way up to the Moccasin Flower (*Cypripedium acaule*), five-star difficulty. There are currently 33 orchid species on orchid-gami. The ebpge also encourages visitors to explore the [Go Orchids website](#) to learn more about our native orchids.



Northern Illinois Native Seed Phenology Chart Available

One aspect of native seed phenology is knowing when the seed of a specific native species is “ripe” or ready for harvest. Understanding seed phenology and native seed collection date ranges is important, especially for habitat restorations and for supporting our declining native pollinator populations. The goal of the *Northern Illinois Native Seed Phenophases* document is to provide a free and accessible comprehensive resource for native seed collection planning and those involved with habitat restoration in northern Illinois. The seed collection date ranges utilized in this chart were kindly collected and donated by ecologists, restoration professionals, and trained volunteer scientists. Visit the [Woods to Wetlands website to see the seed collection chart](#).

New Book Publications

[Wildflowers of the Midwest](#) by Michael Homoya and Scott Namestnik published by Timber Press

[Wildflowers of Indiana Dunes](#) by Nathaniel Pilla and Scott Namestnik published by Indiana University Press



Videos

- Watch the [Zoom recording](#) of a brief introduction to the Plants of Concern program and a recap of the 2021 monitoring season, which included our first full monitoring season in southern Illinois!
- *Litter to Glitter: Unlocking the Herbaceous Potential in Forest Floors*. In ecosystems across eastern North America, fire exclusion and subsequent succession into closed-canopy forests has replaced the “glitter” of once robust and diverse layers of wildflowers and grasses with the uninterrupted dominance of dead leaves—leaf “litter.” Please join Dr. Andy Vander Yacht from Michigan State University as he describes in [this Science Lecture Series Webinar](#) how canopy disturbance and fire season can be used to restore the lost herbaceous components of Eastern ecosystems. Sponsored by Friends of the Pine Bush Community in Albany, NY.

- *Assessing Illinois Rare and State-listed Plant Species and Updating S-ranks*, [a presentation by Paul Marcum](#), Botanist, Illinois Natural History Survey.
- Understanding FQA: Botanist Chris Benda explain Floristic Quality Analysis and the Coefficient of Conservatism concept in this [video](#), which was a live presentation for the Friends of Giant City State Park.

Botany Humor



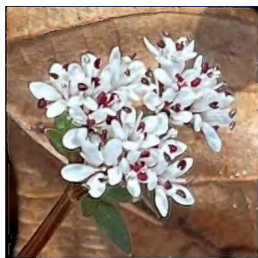
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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www.illinoisplants.org



Harbinger of spring

(*Erigenia bulbosa*)

Photo: Roger Beadles

The Harbinger Spring 2022

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at <https://illinoisplants.org/online-membership-form/>.

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